



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health Department

Memo

To: Catawba County Animal Control

From: Barry Blick, Catawba County Health Director

Date: October 1, 2002

Re: Policy for Dealing with Animals Exposed to Rabies

Pursuant to NCGS § 130A -197 any animal that has been exposed to rabies, and has not been vaccinated, must be euthanized. This same statute provides the Health Director with the authority to allow for a quarantine of an unvaccinated animal so exposed. Therefore I direct that any unvaccinated animal may be quarantined, at the owner's expense, for a six-month period with a licensed veterinarian practicing in Catawba County, as an alternative to immediate euthanization. For purposes of this policy any animal tested for rabies that is deemed "untestable" for any reason shall be considered as having tested positive for rabies.

For any animal that has been exposed to rabies whose vaccination is not current, written proof of the animal's vaccination history must be provided to Catawba County Animal Care and Control within 48 hours of the exposure. After consultation with the North Carolina State Veterinarian an appropriate quarantine period with a licensed veterinarian in Catawba County may be determined.